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13/B
B. Webb
4-1-02

Case 7042R

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of

Rourke et al.

Serial No. 09/529,575

Filed: July 13, 2001

Confirmation No.: 9622

Group Art Unit:3761

Examiner: J. Webb

Title: PROTEASE INHIBITORS IN ABSORBENT ARTICLES

REQUEST FOR CONTINUE EXAMINATION

The Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

TC 3700 MAIL ROOM
MAR 25 2002

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Dear Sir:

This is fully responsive to the Final Office Action dated December 19, 2001. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider the present application in view of the accompanying amendments and remarks.

AMENDMENTS

In The Claims

Please cancel claims 21-30, 34-35, and 37-40.

Please amend the following claims:

31. (Amended) An absorbent article at least a portion of which comprises a protease inhibitor wherein the protease inhibitor has an IC₅₀ of about 500 μM or less, as measured by a General Fecal Protease Method, and wherein the protease inhibitor is 4-(2-aminoethyl)-benzenesulfonylfluoride hydrochloride, hexamidine and its salts, or pentamidine and its salts.

Please add new claims:

41. (New) The article of claim 31, wherein the absorbent article comprises a delivery system for the protease inhibitor.

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